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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|                                |   |                           |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Patent Application of:         | ) |                           |
| J. Donald HILL <u>et al.</u>   | ) | Examiner Not yet assigned |
| Application Number: 10/715,826 | ) | Group Art Unit 3761       |
| Filed: November 19, 2003       | ) | Confirmation No: 3645     |
| For: METHODS, SYSTEMS, AND     | ) |                           |
| APPARATUS FOR PERFORMING       | ) |                           |
| MINIMALLY INVASIVE             | ) |                           |
| CORONARY ARTERY BYPASS         | ) |                           |
| GRAFT SURGERY                  | ) |                           |

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, and in compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants are submitting herewith copies of the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 (modified) for consideration and to be made of record by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) in the above-captioned patent application.

The attached documents were cited by the European Patent Office in the International Search Report dated April 22, 2004 of a counterpart application and relevance is indicated on the enclosed copy of the Search Report.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider these references and that the Examiner indicate that the enclosed references have been considered in this application by returning a copy of the form PTO-1449 with the Examiner's initials in the left column per MPEP 609.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), Applicants believe that this Information Disclosure Statement is submitted prior to issuance of a first Office Action on the merits.

Therefore, no fees are believed due as a result of this submission. However, in the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicant and those determined by the PTO, please charge any such variance to undersigned's Deposit Account No. 02-0375.

Respectfully submitted,  
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Dated: May 14, 2004

Baker Botts L.L.P.  
The Warner, Suite 1300  
1299 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004-2400  
(202) 639-7700 (telephone)  
(202) 639-7890 (facsimile)

By: 

James B. Arpin  
Registration No. 33,470

JBA/dh

Enclosures

FORM PTO-1449 (Modified)  
(REV. 7-80)U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTY. DOCKET NO.

APPLICATION NO.

018880.0149

10/715,826

## LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

APPLICANT

J. Donald Hill et al.

FILING DATE

November 19, 2003

GROUP

3761

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| *EXAMINER<br>INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE    | NAME                 | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE<br>IF APPROPRIATE |
|----------------------|-----------------|---------|----------------------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
|                      | 0 0 5 8 9 5 7   | 5/16/02 | Farascioni           |       |          |                               |
|                      | 0 0 9 1 3 0 0   | 7/11/02 | Peng <u>et al.</u>   |       |          |                               |
|                      | 4 5 7 3 4 5 2   | 3/4/86  | Greenberg            |       |          |                               |
|                      | 4 8 1 7 5 8 7   | 4/4/89  | Janese               |       |          |                               |
|                      | 6 1 4 2 9 3 5   | 11/7/00 | Flom <u>et al.</u>   |       |          |                               |
|                      | 6 1 9 0 3 1 1   | 2/20/01 | Glines <u>et al.</u> |       |          |                               |
|                      |                 |         |                      |       |          |                               |
|                      |                 |         |                      |       |          |                               |
|                      |                 |         |                      |       |          |                               |
|                      |                 |         |                      |       |          |                               |
|                      |                 |         |                      |       |          |                               |

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

|  | DOCUMENT NUMBER  | DATE     | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION |    |
|--|------------------|----------|---------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
|  |                  |          |         |       |          | YES         | NO |
|  | WO 01 7 8 8 0 1  | 10/25/01 | Europe  |       |          | x           |    |
|  | WO 00 2 4 3 3 9  | 5/4/00   | Europe  |       |          | x           |    |
|  | WO 98 4 0 0 3 6  | 9/17/98  | Europe  |       |          | x           |    |
|  | WO 01 4 1 6 5 3  | 6/14/01  | Europe  |       |          | x           |    |
|  | WO 00 7 2 7 6 4  | 12/7/00  | Europe  |       |          | x           |    |
|  | WO 02 0 5 8 5 91 | 8/1/02   | Europe  |       |          | x           |    |
|  | WO 01 4 1 6 3 3  | 6/14/01  | Europe  |       |          | x           |    |
|  |                  |          |         |       |          |             |    |

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

International Search Report, dated April 22, 2004

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.